

DESCRIPTION AMENDMENTS

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 17 to read as follows:

Around the housing element 1, in the middle section thereof, there are installed gas flow control elements 5, which at the same time serve as part of the sealing of the thermal treatment furnace 6. In shape, the control element 5 is essentially symmetrical with respect to the housing element 1, so that the control element 5 is thinnest at the housing element 1. The control element 5 is located between the support rollers 4. The ends 7 of the control element 5 that deviate from the housing element 1 are designed so that the ends 7 form part of the circumference 9 of the same circle that also passes via the spot 10 of the support rollers 4 that is located farthest away from the housing elements 1. That section of the surface of the control element 5 that is located between the end 7 of the control element 5 and the housing element 1 also is advantageously provides curved in-shape guide surfaces that face towards the support rollers 4, in order to obtain an essentially unobstructed gas flow through the aperture apertures formed between the support roller rollers 4 and the control element 5. Between the control elements 5, around the housing element 1, concentrically with the control elements 5, there are installed intermediate support elements 13, which in shape conform to the control elements, but in transversal area represent, when seen at the end of the housing element 1, about 80% of the measures of the control element 5.